

## Pakistan's National Biodiversity Clearing House Mechanism Strategy Approved

Islamabad—As a concrete step towards sustainable development, a two-day workshop was held here to discuss biodiversity issues of Pakistan and to promote greater sharing of knowledge on biodiversity. Experts at the workshop, on Tuesday, also finalized a draft of the national strategy on Clearing-House Mechanism (CHM) as a tangible effort towards realization of UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), of which Pakistan is a signatory. In line with Article 18 of the Convention, Pakistan's CHM strategy would



help facilitate access to and exchange of information on biodiversity around the world.

A team comprising of experts from departments of forest, wildlife, fisheries, irrigation, agriculture and tourism departments, attending the workshop, have taken the first steps toward making a common platform in order to take advantage of innovations and technologies in the developed world. Ministry of Climate Change of Pakistan is in the process of developing Pakistan's National CHM in collaboration with WWF-Pakistan with the support of GEF and UNEP. Pakistan CHM strategy would be finalized and adopted after consultation with key stakeholders and potential user groups. Data collection, formatting and authentication process has been initiated by the Ministry and the Pakistan CHM website would be officially launched on "International Biodiversity Day" on 22nd May, 2012.

Dr Masood Arshad was the facilitating the sessions emphasized on the importance of the Biodiversity Clearing House Mechanism. Mr. Umeed Khalid, Conservator Wildlife, National Council for the conservation of wildlife gave the welcome remarks. He

welcomed the participants and highlighted the status of biodiversity and importance of Clearing House Mechanism in Pakistan.

Dr. Shehzad Jehanghir, Deputy Inspector General Forests, presented about the Convention on Biological Diversity and its implementation along with the targets and action plans.

Dr. Ghulam Akbar, National Programme Manager, Pakistan Wetlands Programme highlighted the major aims of the inception workshop.



The main points of the presentations were

- 1) Dissemination of National CHM Strategy and its finalization
- 2) Capacity Building of the stakeholders and sharing experiences for better implementation of CHM
- 3) Promote awareness and education on biodiversity of Pakistan
- 4) Sharing Pakistan's National CHM website layout and design



Syed Mehmood Nasir Inspector General Forests was the chief guest at the inaugural session. Chief Guest admired the efforts incorporated by the organisers of the workshop. He further added there is an immense need to implement these types of

initiatives. The GIS Nodes developed by the Pakistan Wetlands Programme will be utilized as the CHM capacity building nodes. At the final day recommendations and suggestions were collected and will be incorporated in the strategy and the website.

For further information, please contact

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